



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Hot List WEEK of March 26th

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is pleased to present the "Hot List" - a detailed list of environmental legislation moving through the Maryland General Assembly. Usually, our volunteers will deliver the Hot List to your office every Tuesday; it will also be emailed to your office. We hope you find this weekly communication helpful and instructive as you tackle important environmental bills this session. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Harbeson at kharbeson@mdlcv.org or 410-280-9855, extension 202.

Maryland House of Delegates

Appropriations Committee

Title:	SB0185/ HB0160 - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2019)
Summary:	We will oppose rollbacks to the legislative legacy of healthy air, clean water, and unpolluted lands. We must remain vigilant in protecting key environmental programs such as Program Open Space or the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund or Bay Restoration Fund as well as critical resources needed for enforcement and program implementation at the Departments of Environmental, Agriculture, Transportation, Planning, Natural Resources, and Energy.
Status:	Conference Committee Appointed
Position:	Monitor
Sponsor:	President/ Speaker (by request of the Administration)



Environment and Transportation Committee

Title:	SB0138/ HB0003: Environment – U.S. Climate Alliance – Membership
Summary:	Requires the Governor to include the State as a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance on or before July 18, 2018; Mandates that only the General Assembly may withdraw the State from the U.S. Climate Alliance, and requires the Governor to provide an annual report on the activities of the U.S. Climate Alliance to the General Assembly.
Status:	In House Committee – First Reading Environment and Transportation
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Senator Conway/Delegate Stein

Title:	SB407/ HB0535 – Complete Streets Program - Establishment
Summary:	This bill would create a "Complete Streets Program" within the Department of Transportation to provide grants to local governments to encourage their adoption of complete streets policies. These policies seek to make walking and bicycling safer and more attractive which, in turn, can benefit the environment by reducing the number of gas and diesel fueled vehicles on our roads.
Status:	In House Committee – First Reading Environment and Transportation
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Senator Guzzone/ Delegate Lierman

Title:	SB0850/ HB0744 - Transportation - Complete Streets Policy - Adoption
Summary:	This bill would require implementation of complete streets design features (including sidewalks, crosswalks, protected bicycle lanes, and bus access measures) in constructing state roads and other state transportation projects.
Status:	In House Committee – First Reading Environment and Transportation
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Senator Mathias/ Delegate Lafferty

Title:	SB1006/ HB1350 - Sea Level Rise Inundation and Coastal Flooding - Construction, Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disclosure
Summary:	This bill supports and augments Maryland's climate change adaption efforts on our coasts. It requires development of state criteria and plans that would: a) ensure that the design and siting of state and local structures and highway facilities reflect the potential impacts of sea level rise and coastal flooding; b) allow for such structures and facilities to obtain compliance waivers in appropriate circumstances; c) promote adaption to the intrusion of saltwater into freshwater; and d) assess when to spend state moneys to mitigate sea-level rise and coastal-flooding hazards. The bill also requires that: e) local jurisdictions develop plans to address nuisance flooding; and f) sellers of properties subject to a sea-level rise of two feet inform purchasers of this risk.
Status:	In House Committee – First Reading Environment and Transportation
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Senator Pinsky/ Delegate Stein

Title:	SB1128/ HB1456 – Offshore Drilling Liability Act
Summary:	Establishes that “offshore drilling activity” is an ultrahazardous and abnormally dangerous activity, and that a corporation that causes a spill of oil or gas while engaged in offshore drilling is strictly liable for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that is caused by the spill. This act includes ecological or environmental damages.
Status:	In House Committee – Hearing 3/29 at 1pm (Judiciary)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Senator Mathias/ Delegate Barve

Judiciary Committee

Title:	SB1128/ HB1456 – Offshore Drilling Liability Act
Summary:	Establishes that “offshore drilling activity” is an ultrahazardous and abnormally dangerous activity, and that a corporation that causes a spill of oil or gas while engaged in offshore drilling is strictly liable for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that is caused by the spill. This act includes ecological or environmental damages.
Status:	In House Committee – Hearing 3/29 at 1pm (Judiciary)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Senator Mathias/ Delegate Barve

Maryland Senate

Budget and Tax Committee

Title:	HB0372/ SB0277 – Maryland Metro Funding Act
Summary:	This bill would provide long-term, dedicated funding to the DC metropolitan-area Metro transit system to support important upgrades and improvements for Metro rail. The additional annual funding of at least \$125 million would come from the state's Transportation Trust Fund with no tax increase. It would be contingent on Virginia and DC enacting similar legislation.
Status:	In Senate Committee – Hearing 3/27 at 1pm
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Delegate Korman/ Senator Feldman

Title:	HB993/SB0898 - Maryland Pension Climate Change Risk Act
Summary:	This bill requires the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System to conduct every four years, consistent with its fiduciary duties, a climate risk assessment of the investments in the pension system. This is important given the potential significant impact that climate change is likely to have on various economic sectors.
Status:	In Senate Committee – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Delegate Korman/ Senator Guzzone

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee



Title:	SB0610/HB766: Natural Resources - Forest Conservation Act - Standards and Requirements
Summary:	The Forest Conservation Act, passed in 1991, has the potential to be one of Maryland's best tools for protecting our state's forest land, but as it is currently written, the Act does not reflect the policies and priorities recommended by a task force in 2011. This bill Identifies and protects Maryland's best forest by providing a clear definition of ecologically important areas that should be considered a priority for protection, and outlines partnerships and planning criteria for forest retention.
Status:	In Senate – On Second Reader (Special Ordered until 3/26)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Senator Young/Delegate Healey

Title:	HB0003/SB0138: Environment – U.S. Climate Alliance – Membership
Summary:	Requires the Governor to include the State as a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance on or before July 18, 2018; mandates that only the General Assembly may withdraw the State from the U.S. Climate Alliance, and requires the Governor to provide an annual report on the activities of the U.S. Climate Alliance to the General Assembly.
Status:	In Senate Committee – First Reading
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Delegate Stein/Senator Conway

Title:	HB1350/SB1006 - Sea Level Rise Inundation and Coastal Flooding - Construction, Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disclosure
Summary:	This bill supports and augments Maryland's climate change adaption efforts on our coasts. It requires development of state criteria and plans that would: a) ensure that the design and siting of state and local structures and highway facilities reflect the potential impacts of sea level rise and coastal flooding; b) allow for such structures and facilities to obtain compliance waivers in appropriate circumstances; c) promote adaption to the intrusion of saltwater into freshwater; and d) assess when to spend state moneys to mitigate sea-level rise and coastal-flooding hazards. The bill also requires that: e) local jurisdictions develop plans to address nuisance flooding; and f) sellers of properties subject to a sea-level rise of two feet inform purchasers of this risk.
Status:	In Senate Committee – First Reading
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Delegate Stein/Senator Pinsky

Title:	<u>HB1765/ SB1128 – On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems – Watershed Implementation Plan and Bay Restoration Fund Disbursements and Financial Assistance</u>
Summary:	Incentivizes local jurisdictions to create Septic Stewardship Plans, which are created in consultation with the local health department and must contain certain criteria. Local jurisdictions with Septic Stewardship Plans may use a limited amount of their BRF allocation to incentivize pumpouts and may count pumpouts towards their nitrogen load reductions.
Status:	In Senate Committee – Hearing 4/3 at 1pm
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Delegate Lafferty

Finance Committee

Title:	<u>HB0535/SB407 – Complete Streets Program - Establishment</u>
Summary:	This bill would create a "Complete Streets Program" within the Department of Transportation to provide grants to local governments to encourage their adoption of complete streets policies. These policies seek to make walking and bicycling safer and more attractive which, in turn, can benefit the environment by reducing the number of gas and diesel fueled vehicles on our roads.
Status:	In Senate Committee – Hearing 4/3 at 1pm
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Delegate Lierman/ Senator Guzzone

Title:	<u>HB0744/SB0850 - Transportation - Complete Streets Policy - Adoption</u>
Summary:	This bill would require implementation of complete streets design features (including sidewalks, crosswalks, protected bicycle lanes, and bus access measures) in constructing state roads and other state transportation projects.
Status:	In Senate Committee – Hearing 4/3 at 1pm
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Delegate Lafferty/Senator Mathias

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Title:	<u>HB1456/ SB1128 – Offshore Drilling Liability Act</u>
Summary:	Establishes that “offshore drilling activity” is an ultrahazardous and abnormally dangerous activity, and that a corporation that causes a spill of oil or gas while engaged in offshore drilling is strictly liable for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that is caused by the spill. This act includes ecological or environmental damages.
Status:	In Senate Committee – First Reading
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Delegate Barve/ Senator Mathias

Maryland Green Champions Award

Maryland is fortunate to have a legislature full of supporters for strong environmental legislation. Every year, Maryland LCV rewards these elected officials with high marks on our annual legislative scorecard. These marks, however, don't always allow us to tell the full story of our greatest champions: the Delegates and Senators whose annual scores don't truly reflect their leadership on environmental issues.

This is why Maryland LCV created the Maryland Green Champion Award, to showcase and celebrate the legislators whose leadership rises above and beyond their voting record. This high honor will be awarded each year to Delegates and Senators who meet the following standards:

- 100% score in the previous year
- Lifetime scores since 2003 (or current and previous two legislative terms) above 95%
- Primary sponsor for at least one major LCV legislative priority in previous three years.
- Not supporting LCV opposed legislation on Hot List during that awards legislative session.